All About Wilder!
Graduate Student Happenings
Volume IV, Issue II Spring 2009

Note from the Graduate Director

Looking for a place to study quietly, hold a group project meeting, or just meet other Wilder School graduate students? Introducing *The Wilder Chambers*, opening Fall 2009 in Bowe House, Room 101. The summer is filled with lots of opportunities as well! Explore our list of summer courses and internship opportunities (yes, there’s still time, but you need to hurry!). Just read more in *All About Wilder* to stay in the loop!

Susan T. Gooden, Ph.D.
Director, Graduate Programs

Announcing the New Wilder School Graduate Student Center: *The Wilder Chambers!*

Opening in Fall 2009, *The Wilder Chambers*, a meeting room for graduate students will be located in the Bowe House, at 917 West Franklin Street, Room 101. This structure has served as part of the School of Music for many years.

*The Wilder Chambers* room is open to all students enrolled in any of the Wilder School graduate programs. It is a dedicated place for students to study, and can serve as a meeting space for group projects (additionally, students can play the piano that helps to adorn the room!)

The original owner of this classically designed home, Nathaniel Bowe, was once a partner in Williams and Bowe, Real Estate and Loans. Built circa 1887-88, in 1963, VCU purchased the building which is part of the historic building tour.
Recently Awarded Public Policy and Administration PhDs!

Five Public Policy and Administration doctoral candidates successfully defended their dissertations during the Fall 2008 semester. Each student’s name, dissertation title, and dissertation chair is listed below:


Farrah Graham, “Making Sense of the Access Problem: A New Methodology for Analyzing the Role of Information in the College Choice Decision,” Dr. Michael Pratt

Suzanne Lowe, “An Exploration of the Effects of Violent Long-Term Intimate Partner Violence: Listening to Older Women,” Dr. Laura Moriarty


Congratulations to our newly-minted Wilder School PhD's!

Dr. Nicole Piquero, New Criminal Justice Faculty Member

The Wiler School welcomes Dr. Nicole Piquero, a new faculty member in the Criminal Justice program. Dr. Piquero's research examines crimes and offenders not often studied in mainstream criminology and criminal justice research, primarily crimes of the elite (e.g., white-collar and corporate crimes). She has publications in Criminology, Crime and Delinquency, Crime and Public Policy, Law and Society Review, Journal of Criminal Justice, Justice Quarterly, and Youth and Society. She is the current recipient of the National White Collar Crime Research Consortium’s Young Career Award and she serves as the secretary for the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and is a member of the American Society of Criminology.

Welcome, Dr. Piquero!
**Dr. John Accordino’s Research at the University of Messina**

**Dr. John Accordino**, Associate Professor, Dr. Michele Limosani of the University of Messina, Sicily, and **Fabrizio Fasulo**, VCU Master of Urban & Regional Planning 2008 and doctoral candidate at the University of Messina, conducted an analysis of the health of the City of Messina's commercial sector and the specializations of its ten primary commercial nodes and corridors. The technical report, “The Commercial Corridors in the City of Messina: Analysis and Proposals,” utilized the US Main Street approach to retail district analysis and made recommendations for development and revitalization polices to the City of Messina and to the Messina Chamber of Commerce.

The report demonstrated the value of university-local government collaboration to revitalize the city while educating students. It was developed with the collaboration of the City of Messina and the Messina Chamber of Commerce, and graduate students in the social sciences of the University of Messina assisted with the research process.

The study was sponsored in part by the Center for Integrative Mediterranean Studies, a joint initiative of VCU and the universities of Messina, Sicily and Cordoba, Spain. Further collaborative projects in urban and regional planning between VCU and the University of Messina are planned for this year and coming years. For more information regarding this research, please contact Professor Accordino, jaccordi@vcu.edu.

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**Kelly Kinahan, MURP 2008, Received the APA Student Scholarship**

**Kelly Kinahan**, a 2008 graduate of the Master of Urban & Regional Planning program, received the American Planning Association Economic Development Division’s Annual Student Scholarship for her article, "Leveling the Playing Field: Independent Retailers Co-existing with Formula Businesses in Downtown Commercial Districts." Her article appeared in the Division’s Spring 2008 issue of *News & Views*.

Kinahan’s article explores the dilemma faced by historic downtown main streets as they attempt to revitalize and attract new users. As the revitalization process proceeds, chain stores (formula businesses) become attracted and often destroy what is unique about historic downtowns. This stymies further revitalization. Kinahan considers the various strategies for downtown revitalization and proposes alternatives, including ways to work with formula businesses, that still allow historic downtowns to retain their distinctiveness.
**New Graduate Program Directors**

*We extend a warm welcome to our new graduate program coordinators.*

**Dr. Jill A. Gordon**  
Criminal Justice  
Graduate Program Coordinator  
(jagordon@vcu.edu, 827-0901)

**Dr. Ivan Suen**  
Urban and Regional Planning  
Graduate Program Coordinator  
(isuen@vcu.edu, 828-2721)

**Dr. Carl Ameringer**  
Public Administration  
Graduate Program Coordinator  
(cfameringer@vcu.edu, 827-4566)

Additionally, we welcome **Dr. Carolyn Funk**, Director of the Ph.D. program in Public Policy and Administration (clfunk@vcu.edu, 828-6837).

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**Dr. Jimmy Chen’s Research Activities**

Professor Jimmy Chen is serving as the Principal Investigator (PI) on three new grants.

The first grant, “VCU Student Travel Survey” is funded by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). This project is a supplement to the 2008 Statewide National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) Add-on Program administered by VDOT. The co-PI for this project is Professor Mark Williams of the VCU Survey and Evaluation Research Lab. The project is expected to be completed by early 2010.

In addition, the VCU Center for Teaching Excellence recently awarded a grant to assist Professor Chen in his project “Innovative Pedagogical Approach to Teaching Transportation Modeling Course.” This project involves the purchase of new traffic operations software packages and the development of new transportation modeling course materials for Fall 2009.

Professor Chen was also selected to participate in the VCU Service-Learning Associates Program. This program is in association with the VCU Department of Community Engagement.
Graduate Student Awards and Presentations

Awards:
Ashleigh Glenn, Master of Sociology student, is the recipient of the 2009 Black History in the Making Award for the Sociology graduate program.

Kathryn Monusky, Master of Sociology student, won a Feminist Social Activism Award from the Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) for her work with Sexual Assault and Violence Education by Students (SAVES) and the VCU Grant to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus as a victim witness advocate.

Presentations:


Ashley Hatchell, Master of Sociology student, presented a paper, “The Shortcomings of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in Restructuring the Family in Post-Conflict Countries,” at the Wilder School graduate student research panel in February, and the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland in March, 2009.


Publications:
Dr. Farrah Graham, a recent Public Policy and Administration doctoral program graduate, and Dr. David Urban have published, “Women and minorities in Virginia: Attitudes toward public education 2001-2005,” in T. G. Shields and S. G. Davis (Eds.), New voices in the old south: How women and minorities influence southern politics (pp. 9-20). Tallahassee, FL: John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government.


There is still time to secure a great summer internship. Visit the Wilder School homepage at www.pubapps.vcu.edu/gov/ for an array of summer internship opportunities.

Some examples include:
- Republican Party of Virginia
- Democratic Party of Virginia
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- VCU Police Department
- Virginia Beach Police Department
- Virginia Housing Development Authority
- National Fatherhood Initiative
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Virginia Resources Authority
- Department of Justice

### Summer Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 652</td>
<td>Administrative Law</td>
<td>Carl Ameringer</td>
<td>May 18 - July 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 657</td>
<td>Nonprofit Advocacy and Government Relations</td>
<td>John Toscano</td>
<td>May 18 - July 8</td>
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<td>URSP 610</td>
<td>Introduction to Planning</td>
<td>John Accordino</td>
<td>May 18 - June 18</td>
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<td>CRJS 620</td>
<td>Seminar in Criminology (Online)</td>
<td>Robyn Diehl</td>
<td>May 18 - June 5</td>
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<td>URSP 621</td>
<td>Intro to GIS</td>
<td>Ivan Suen</td>
<td>May 18 - June 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 622</td>
<td>Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS</td>
<td>Michela Zonta</td>
<td>May 18 - June 5</td>
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<td>URSP 625</td>
<td>Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling</td>
<td>Jimmy Chen</td>
<td>May 18 - June 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCY 691</td>
<td>Intimate Partners and Sexual Violence Health</td>
<td>Laurie Crawford</td>
<td>May 19 - July 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSEP 602</td>
<td>Government, Industry, &amp; Community</td>
<td>Joseph Pascarella</td>
<td>June 1 - July 24</td>
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<td>HSEP 603</td>
<td>Risk Assessment</td>
<td>Joseph Pascarella</td>
<td>June 1 - July 25</td>
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<td>CRJS 622</td>
<td>Criminal Justice Systems (Online)</td>
<td>Jay Albanese</td>
<td>June 8 - July 16</td>
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<td>PADM 661</td>
<td>Nonprofit Law, Governance and Ethics</td>
<td>Deborah Williamson</td>
<td>June 8 - July 29</td>
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<td>PADM 607</td>
<td>Public Human Resource Management</td>
<td>Blue Wooldridge</td>
<td>June 8 - July 29</td>
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<td>SOCY 691</td>
<td>Social Context of Childhood &amp; Violence</td>
<td>Kim Flurnoy</td>
<td>June 8 - July 29</td>
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<td>SOCY 609</td>
<td>Seminar in the Family</td>
<td>Ann Creighton-Zollar</td>
<td>June 9 - July 30</td>
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<td>Performance Management</td>
<td>Blue Wooldridge</td>
<td>June 9 - July 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 691</td>
<td>Time Management</td>
<td>Rachel Kopelovich</td>
<td>August 5 - August 7</td>
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Please see the VCU Schedule of Summer Classes at www.vcu.edu/courses/ for a full listing, including specific course dates and times. Remember to consult your advisor to make sure a course is appropriate for your specific
Thank you to Drs. Accordino, Albanese, Hutchinson, and Pratt!

The L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs thanks Drs. John Accordino, Jay Albanese, Janet Hutchinson (not pictured), and Michael Pratt for their excellent service to our graduate programs!

Thank you for your dedicated service!

Wilder School Community Relations

Nelson Wikstrom, Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, has received an “Award of Merit” from the Henrico Historic Preservation Advisory Committee for his book, County Manager Government in Henrico, Virginia: Implementation, Evolution, and Evaluation.

Professor Wikstrom’s book is an in-depth study of the experience of Henrico County with the county manager form of government. After providing a historical overview of the county, the work sets forth the political circumstances and dynamics that resulted in the county adopting this innovative form of government in 1934. This is followed by an examination of the challenges, accomplishments, and professional styles of the seven County Managers who have served. Appropriate attention is given to the close working relationship between the County Manager and the members of the Board of Supervisors. The volume concludes with a discussion of the various factors that have ensured the success of the county manager form, and the future of the county manager form of government of Henrico. Professor Wikstrom was also reappointed for a one year term to the "Local Emergency Planning Committee," and was appointed to the "Henrico 2011 Celebration Advisory Commission."
Public Administration's 2009 Visiting Scholar: Professor Richard Box

The Public Administration program held its Spring 2009 Visiting Scholar Lecture on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at the Siegel Center in the Founder's Room, featuring Richard Box, Ph.D. The reception began at 5:30 p.m., with the lecture following at 6:00 p.m.

Richard Box, Ph.D. is the Foundation Professor and Director of Urban Studies in the School of Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha. He served as a land-use planner and administrator in local governments in Oregon and California before completing his doctorate at the University of Southern California. His writing focuses on the role of the public service practitioner in a democratic society and the application of critical social theory in public administration.


The Visiting Scholar lecture is in its thirteenth year and was instituted by the VCU public administration faculty in 1996. It provides an opportunity for students, faculty, alumni and friends to meet and hear notable scholars in the field of public administration and public policy. Each year, the faculty selects a colleague whose scholarly work has advanced our field and has resulted in a recently authored book on a topic of interest to our students. The lecture may be on that topic or on another of the scholar’s choosing. The Visiting Scholar lecture is supported in large part by alumni donations. We look forward each year with anticipation to this event which is becoming a fond part of our program’s academic heritage.

For more on the annual Visiting Scholar Lecture, please contact Professor Janet Hutchinson at jhutch@vcu.edu.

Professor Salta Leibert’s Lecture at Columbia University

In March 2009, Professor Salta Liebert delivered a lecture at Columbia University titled, “Irregular Labor Migration from Central Asia and the Caucasus to the United States,” which was sponsored by the Harriman Institute. Her lecture focused on the newly emerging phenomenon of labor migration of educated professionals from the former Soviet Union to take up unskilled, low-wage jobs in the informal economy of the United States. Based on in-depth interviews with migrants from Central Asia and Georgia, Liebert provided a comprehensive overview of their migration, starting with how migrants arrange their passage to the United States from their home countries and ending with migrants’ integration in the destination country.

Dr. Liebert serves as an expert on migration and human trafficking issues and has been interviewed by media outlets such as Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and BBC World Service. Her forthcoming book, *Irregular Labor Migration from the Former Soviet Union to the United States*, will be published by Routledge in August 2009.
Upcoming Events


"The courage to question...the knowledge to inform...the tools for change."